THE WINNER!

Shop-Built Drilling Jig

Recently I needed to drill some ¼" holes for shelf pins. Rummaging through the shop, I came up with the idea of using a door hinge, a block of wood, and plywood as a drill guide (photo above).

The hinge I used was for an entry door and had a pin that was ¼" in diameter. After removing the pin to separate the leaves, I attached one hinge leaf square to the wood block using round-head screws and washers. Note: My block was 1" thick by 8" long and the height (width) matches the length of the hinge (3" in my case).

Next, I mounted the other hinge leaf to the block so that the barrels of each leaf were 2" apart. (You'll need to cut a shallow dado for the hinge knuckle.) This way, you can use the hinge leaf and pin to index the jig for evenly spaced shelf pin holes. A spring keeps the pin out of the way when it's not needed.

An adjustable fence serves as a reference for locating holes from the edge of the workpiece, as shown in the inset photo. The slots let you slide the fence to the opposite edge of the block. This way, you can flip the jig to drill mating holes on the opposite edge of the workpiece.

To use the jig, just chuck a ¼"-dia. bit in your drill. Adjusting the amount the drill bit protrudes below the bottom knuckle sets the desired hole depth. The drill chuck serves as a depth stop as it contacts the top of the jig.

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